

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 01002 130711Z

10
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-03 INR-07 PRS-01 SAM-01

SSO-00 INRE-00 /040 W
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O 130632Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5005

S E C R E T CANBERRA 1002

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJECT: PROPOSED DEPSEC DEF TRIP TO AUSTRALIA

REF: SECDEF P 130101Z FEB 75

1. REFTEL FROM DOD/ISA TO USDAO CANBERRA ANNOUNCES
VISIT OF DEPSEC CLEMENTS WITH OFFICIAL PARTY OF
APPROXIMATELY TEN TO NORTHWEST CAPE, PINE GAP,
WOOMERA AND CANBERRA FROM 12-16 MARCH 1975. DAO IS
INSTRUCTED TO MAKE QUOTE A LOWKEYED APPROACH TO THE
APPROPRIATE GOA OFFICIALS ON THIS MATTER UNQUOTE.
DAO IS REQUESTED TO FORWARD QUOTE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF COUNTRY TEAM ON HOW BEST TO CONDUCT THESE VISITS
SO AS TO MINIMIZE PUBLICITY AND DOMESTIC PROBLEMS
FOR GOA UNQUOTE AS WELL AS TO FORWARD COUNTRY TEAM
VIEWS ON SCHEDULE FOR CANBERRA. STATE DEPARTMENT IS
NOT LISTED AS ADDRESSEE OF THIS MESSAGE.

2. ASSUME DEPSEC CLEMENTS PLANS TO ACCEPT INVITATION
EXTENDED BY BARNARD LAST SEPTEMBER, ALTHOUGH
THIS IS NOT MENTIONED. PROPOSED TRIP WOULD BE
MOST SENIOR DOD VISIT TO AUSTRALIA SINCE ADVENT
LABOR GOVERNMENT (AND WITH EXCEPTION OF KENNETH
RUSH'S ONE DAY STOPOVER THE MOST SENIOR USG
VISIT). WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT VISIT WOULD ATTRACT
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HEAVY MEDIA ATTENTION TO OUR JOINT DEFENSE FACILITIES

DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS TO MAKE IT QUOTE LOW KEY
UNQUOTE. WHITLAM MAY HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT SUCH
PUBLICITY JUST AFTER HIS STATEMENTS ON FACILITIES
IN TERRIGAL DEBATE AND AT SAME TIME GOVERNMENT IS
TABLING NORTHWEST CAPE AMENDEMENTS.

3. IN ANY CASE VISIT OF THIS SIGNIFICANCE MUST BE
TAKEN UP FORMALLY THROUGH DFA AND CAN NOT BE
TREATED AS DOD/ADOD MATTER. WE MUST ASK GOA IF IT
WOULD WELCOME SUCH VISIT AT THIS TIME AND CAN NOT
SIMPLY ANNOUNCE DEPSEC CLEMENT'S PLANS AS PER REFTEL.

4. BEFORE APPROACHING DFA I WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRM-
ATION THAT DEPARTMENT HAS CLEARED THIS PROPOSAL.
DAO WILL TAKE NO ACTION NOW. RECOMMEND THAT DEPSEC
CLEMENTS' STAFF NOT PROCEED WITH MORE SPECIFIC
PLANS PENDING GOA APPROVAL OF VISIT.
HARROP

SECRET

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